

REMARKS

Claims 19, 20, 22-48 and 58-91 remain pending. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.


Claims 58-69, 74-76, 80-83 and 88 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Limon (U.S. Patent No. 6,273,910). Independent claims 58, 61, 67, 74 and 81 were amended to specify that the central section is to comprise a single ring. The cited reference clearly shows a plurality of rings in the central section and does not in any way suggest limiting the central section to a single ring. Anticipation is thereby unequivocally avoided. Moreover, the cited reference does not address the problems associated with the treatment of vulnerable plaque and more particularly, does not recognize that a central section configuration that results in a reduced amount of scaffolding serves to promote cell growth over the struts and hence over the fibrous cap of the vulnerable plaque (specification page 2, lines 19-25). More particularly, no suggestion is made that reliance on a single ring element in the center section is desirable for any purpose. It is respectfully submitted that in view of the fact that the cited reference does not address problems associated with vulnerable plaque, let alone offer the solution claimed herein, obviousness is effectively avoided as well.

Claims 19, 20, 22-48, 70-73, 77-80 and 84-91 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Limon (U.S. Patent No. 6,273,910). All independent claims were amended to specify that the central section is to comprise a single ring. As was argued above, the cited reference does not address the problem associated with the treatment of vulnerable plaque and more particularly, does not recognize that a central section configuration that results in a reduced amount of scaffolding serves to promote cell growth over the struts and hence over the fibrous cap of the vulnerable plaque (specification page 2, lines 19-25). It is respectfully submitted that in view of the fact that the cited reference does not address problems associated with vulnerable plaque, let alone offer the solution claimed herein, obviousness is effectively avoided.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, applicant earnestly believes the application to be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that it be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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